

Serial No. 09/122,293

Docket No. 1232-4457

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A parts ordering system having a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, wherein said second domain includes:

receiving means for receiving an order from the first domain;

judging means for judging a kind of the order;

machining planning ~~devising~~ means for devising a machining plan based upon the judged order;

expansion means for expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan;

order planning ~~devising~~ means for devising an ordering plan for each expanded component part;

ordering means for ordering in units of individual parts in accordance with the ordering plan; and

communication means for communicating, to the third domain orders in individual parts units.

Claim 2 (Original): The system according to claim 1, wherein said first domain, second domain and third domain have means for issuing an order, means for receiving an order,

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means for devising a machining plan based upon the order received, means for performing expansion, into each component part, in accordance with the machining plan, means for devising an ordering plan for a part that has been expanded into its component parts, means for ordering a part expanded into individual parts units based upon the ordering plan, means for reading data from a database in accordance with the order for the part, and means for writing the read data to the database;

wherein a plurality of connections are made possible on a network in a tree structure.

D' Claim 3 (Original): The system accordance to claim 2, wherein said means for receiving an order has means for making a comparison with data, which has been retained in a database, to determine whether an order is a new order, a modified order or re-transmission of the same order.

Claim 4 (Original): The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for devising a machining plan has means for comparing a designated delivery date of a received order and planned production date retained in a database, and means for scheduling an expected production date based upon results of the comparison.

Claim 5 (Original): The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for performing expansion into each component part has means for performing expansion in units of individual parts constructing a manufactured product based upon a received order, and means for calculating the number of parts.

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Claim 6 (Original): The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for devising an ordering plan has means for comparing a number of parts contained in inventory and a number of parts required, and means for calculating minimum units of an order based upon results of the comparison.

Claim 7 (Original): The system according to claim 1, wherein said first domain, which corresponds to an ordering starting point, has means for issuing an order in accordance with an order input, and said third domain, which corresponds to an ordering end point, has means for receiving an order in response to the issuance of the order.

D' Claim 8 (Original): The system according to claim 1, wherein said first, second and third domains are connected in a nodeless tree structure, and an order for each component part processed by said first domain is communicated to the third domain without processing being duplicated by the expanding means of said second domain.

Claims 9 (Previously Amended): A parts ordering system in which a domain on a first network and a domain on a second network are connected via a public line, wherein the domain on said second network includes:

means for receiving an order from the domain on said first network;

means for judging a kind of the order;

means for devising a machining plan based upon the judged order;

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means for expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan;

means for devising an ordering plan for each expanded component part; and

means for ordering in units of individual parts in accordance with the ordering plan.

Claim 10 (Original): The system according to claim 9, wherein the domain on a third network connected to the domain on the second network via a LAN receives an order, which is issued by the domain on said first network, via a public line, the domain on said second network and said LAN.

D1 Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A parts ordering system having a database which stores an amount of specific parts contained in inventory, as well as a first domain, second domain and third domain connected in a tree structure, each domain is a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, wherein said second domain includes:

receiving means for receiving an order from the first domain;

judging means for judging a kind of the order;

machining planning ~~devising~~ means for devising a machining plan based upon the judged order;

means for expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan;

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order planning devising means for devising an ordering plan for each expanded component part;

ordering means for ordering in units of individual parts in accordance with the ordering plan;

communication means for communicating, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units; and

stopping means for comparing the amount of specific parts contained in inventory stored in the database and a required amount of specific parts obtained by expansion performed by said means for expanding, and stopping the communication of an order to the third domain in a case where the amount of specific parts contained in inventory is greater, by a prescribed amount, than the required amount of specific parts.

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Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A parts ordering system in which a first domain is internally provided with a database in which an amount of specific parts contained in inventory has been stored, wherein said first domain includes:

receiving means for receiving an order from a second domain;

judging means for judging a kind of the order;

machining planning devising means for devising a machining plan based upon the judged order;

means for expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan;

order planning devising means for devising an ordering plan for each expanded component part;

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ordering means for ordering in units of individual parts in accordance with the ordering plan;

communication means for communicating, to the third domain, the orders in individual parts units; and

stopping means for comparing the amount of specific parts contained in inventory stored in the database within the first domain and a required amount of specific parts obtained by expansion performed by said means for expanding, and stopping the communication of an order to the third domain in a case where the amount of specific parts contained in inventory is greater, by a prescribed amount, than the required amount of specific parts,

wherein each domain is a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line.

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Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A parts ordering system having a first domain and a second domain connected in a tree structure, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, wherein said second domain includes:

receiving means for receiving an order from the first domain;

judging means for judging a kind of the order;

~~machining planning~~ devising means for devising a machining plan based upon the judged order;

means for expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan;

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order planning ~~devising~~ means for devising an ordering plan for each expanded component part;

ordering means for ordering in units of individual parts in accordance with the ordering plan; and

first control means which controls reference permission for referring, from an operating terminal connected to said second domain, to status of order receiving/issuance in individual parts units expanded by said means for expanding.

Claim 14 (Original): The system according to claim 13, wherein said first control means permits reference to order data, machining plan data and sub-part inventory data of said first domain upon limiting this data to that required by said second domain.

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Claim 15 (Original): The system according to claim 14, wherein said first control means gives reference permission based upon a combination of a domain number and password.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A parts ordering system having a first domain and a second domain connected in a tree structure, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, wherein said second domain includes:

receiving means for receiving an order from the first domain;

judging means for judging a kind of the order;

machining planning ~~devising~~ means for devising a machining plan based upon the judged order;

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means for expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan;

order planning ~~devising~~ means for devising an ordering plan for each expanded component part;

means for ordering in units of individual parts in accordance with the ordering plan; and

first control means which controls permission to refer to an order for a component part expanded by said means for expanding, reference being made from an operating terminal connected to the second domain, and second control means for controlling permission to refer to ordering information, within the first domain, related to an order issued to the second domain.

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Claim 17 (Original): The system according to claim 16, wherein the system is constituted by a single domain having order issuing means, order receiving means, machining planning means, constructional expansion means, ordering planning means and ordering means, an interface for making possible interconnection of domains in a tree structure, and input means for inputting, to a database, information relating to a part delivered in accordance with the order.

[Claims 18-19 (Canceled)]

[Claim 20 (Withdrawn)]

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A parts ordering method whereby a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure, each domain being a unit of

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processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, deliver and receive orders, comprising:

a receiving step at which the second domain receives an order from the first domain;

a judging step at which the second domain judges a kind of the order;

a machining planning ~~devising~~ step at which the second domain devises a machining plan based upon the judged order;

an expanding step at which the second domain expands, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan;

a order planning ~~devising~~ step at which the second domain devises an ordering plan for each expanded component part;

an ordering step at which the second domain orders in units of individual parts in accordance with the ordering plan; and

a communication step at which the second domain communicates, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units.

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Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A parts ordering method whereby a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure deliver and receive orders via a database which stores an amount of specific parts contained in inventory, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, the method comprising:

a receiving step at which the second domain receives an order from the first domain;

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a judging step at which the second domain judges a kind of the order;

a machining planning ~~devising~~ step at which the second domain devises a machining plan based upon the judged order;

an expanding step at which the second domain expands, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan;

a order planning ~~devising~~ step at which the second domain devises an ordering plan for each expanded component part;

an ordering step at which the second domain orders in units of individual parts in accordance with the ordering plan;

a communication step at which the second domain communicates, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units; and

a stopping step at which the second domain compares the amount of specific parts contained in inventory stored in the database and a required amount of specific parts obtained by expansion performed at the expanding step, and stops the communication of an order to the third domain in a case where the amount of specific parts contained in inventory is greater, by a prescribed amount, than the required amount of specific parts.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A parts ordering method whereby a first domain, which is internally provided with database in which an amount of specific parts contained in inventory has been stored, accepts an order from a second domain and communicates the order to a third domain, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, the method comprising:

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a receiving step at which the first domain receives an order from the second domain;

a judging step at which the first domain judges a kind of the order;

a machining planning ~~devising~~ step at which the first domain devises a machining plan based upon the judged order;

an expanding step at which the first domain performs expansion, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan;

a order planning ~~devising~~ step at which the first domain devises an ordering plan for each expanded component part;

an ordering step at which the first domain orders in units of individual parts in accordance with the ordering plan;

a communication step at which the first domain communicates, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units; and

a stopping step in which the first domain compares the amount of specific parts contained in inventory stored in the database within the first domain and a required number of specific parts obtained by expansion performed at the expanding step, and stops the communication of an order to the third domain in a case where the amount of specific parts contained in inventory is greater, by a prescribed amount, than the required amount of specific parts.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A parts management system having a database which stores an amount of specific parts contained in inventory, as well as a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure, each domain being a unit of

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processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, wherein said second domain includes:

a receiving means for receiving an order from the first domain;

a judging means for judging a kind of the order;

machining planning ~~devising~~ means for devising a machining plan based upon the judged order;

means for expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan;

a order planning ~~devising~~ means for devising an ordering plan for each expanded component part;

an ordering means for ordering in units of individual parts in accordance with the ordering plan; and

communication means for communicating, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units;

said second domain having input means for inputting, to the database, information relating to a part delivered in accordance with an order.

Claim 25 (Original): The system according to claim 24, wherein the system is constituted by a single domain having order issuing means, order receiving means, machining planning means, constructional expansion means, ordering planning means and ordering means, an interface for making possible interconnection of domains in a tree structure, and input means for inputting, to a database, information relating to a part delivered in accordance with the order.

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[Claims 26-27 (Canceled)]

[Claim 28 (Withdrawn)]

Claim 29 (previously Amended): A computer readable recording medium on which has been recorded a program by which the following means are implemented by a computer:

means for issuing an order;

means for receiving the order;

means for judging a kind of the received order;

means for devising a machining plan based upon the judged order;

means for expanding, into each component part, in accordance with the machining plan;

means for devising an ordering plan for a part that has been expanded into each component part;

means for ordering a part expanded into each component part corresponding to the ordering plan;

means for reading data from a database in accordance with the order for the part;

and

means for writing the read data to the database.

[Claims 30-36 (Withdrawn)]